

From: Michael Williams
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the settlement.

Microsoft has irrevocably altered the evolution of information technology, both in the technical sense and the social sense. So have other entities: Apple Computer, Bill Joy, Vincent Cerf, etc., etc. Microsoft, however, has provably done so through technological piracy and unethical and illegal(!) business practices. The result has been the unprecedented growth of the indisputably rapacious monster, Microsoft, at the ever increasing cost to us at large. I find the defense of Microsoft based on the benefit it has created through a unified environment to be utterly ludicrous. The loss of national productivity due to the use of Windows alone should be an indictable crime.

Given what has been *proven* in court, the proposed settlement offers a truly lame and ineffectual punishment. It is just plain unacceptable.

I apologize to the reader if this seems polemical. Thorough and even-handed analyses supporting this point of view abound (e.g. by GCSF, Inc).

The message that this settlement would send to everyday people like myself, is that money has a heavy hand, indeed, in our judicial system.

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PS: What is being done to control against undue Microsoft influence to the tally of Tunney-Act comments? After all, it's not like they haven't done it before.